



Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's Family Serving Christ with Love



6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 8 & 12, 2023

W8267 Hwy 33 East,
Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson

Office: 608-742-8502

www.bethlehemLCportage.org

Church Office Hours: Mon-Wed 9am-3pm,
Thurs & Fri 9am-12pm

Holy Communion is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. We offer it two ways: prepacked and communion at the altar. You can pick up the prefilled communion cup on your way into the sanctuary or ask the usher for it at communion time. It contains a wafer, which you open first by lifting the clear cellophane on top and then the grape juice. If you would like a **gluten free wafer**, please let the usher know before the start of worship. We also offer communion at the altar for those that wish to come up. Please fill out a Communion Card found in the pew racks and give it to the usher when you come up for communion.

Children's Worship Activity Bags are available in the Narthex with activities for your children, please help yourself. You can place the used activity bags in the basket located beneath the activity bag tree as you leave. We have a **Cry Room** for your comfort where you can hear and see the service.

Hearing assistance devices are available on the counter in the Narthex for your convenience. Please ask the greeter or usher for help.

Large print copies of the bulletin are available in the Narthex.

Enter to praise

We invite those who are able to stand each time this symbol ❖ appears in the bulletin.

❖ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✚ Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#574 "Here I Am, Lord"

❖ GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR SINGING (SUNDAY)

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 119:1-8


- ¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!
²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**
³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.
⁴**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**
⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!
⁶**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**
⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.
⁸**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

❖



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

❖ GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON (SUNDAY) SERMON

❖ SERMON HYMN

#772 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

❖ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pray aloud as the Spirit guides you*

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need *especially all of those on our prayer list and in our hearts*. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

❖ PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

We share our offerings for the mission of Christ through Bethlehem. Thank you for your participation in this ministry to the Glory of God!

❖ OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

..we praise your name and join the unending hymn...



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

❖ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

❖ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

❖ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You may come forward to receive communion at this time. If you prefer to celebrate communion in your pew with prepackaged elements, please let the usher know.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

❖ SENDING HYMN

#812 v. 1, 3 "Faith of Our Fathers"

❖ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Depart to share

This Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 2/8

Music: Carla

Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson

Altar Guild: Judy Donahue

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 2/12

Music: Carla

Reader: Lisa Cook

Usher: Kory Anderson

Video Production: Jeff Melby

Acolyte: Avri Anderson

Altar Guild: Lisa Cook

Communion Assistants: Lisa Cook & Nancy Buckley

Coffee Hour: _____

Altar Flowers: Julie & Jerry Saalsaa in memory of
Virginia Raab

Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 2/15

Music: Samantha

Acolyte: Zoe Zellmer

Altar Guild: Kathy Lawrence

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 2/19

Music: Praise Team

Reader: Ginny McNeal

Usher: Bobbie Goodman

Video Production: _____

Acolyte: Mikayla Bovre

Altar Guild: Nancy Schwenke

Communion Assistants: Nancy Schwenke &

Coffee Hour: _____

Please Pray For

Church Prayer List:

Cheryl Skeie

Donn Trinrud

Jack Paulson

Dustin Mueller

Angie & Jim Buchholtz

Dick Olson

Barb & Lee Chenoweth

Mark Teslik

Bonnie Bender

Noretta Moran

Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Sharon Stickford (friend of Ginny Paulson's)

Lavern Allhiser (brother-in-law of Sandy Sween)

Freda Manzullo (Mark Teslik's sister)

Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween's cousin)

Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed's son)

Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)



LENTEEN SOUP SUPPER SERVING SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Feb 22 - Women's group

March 1 -Choir

March 8 -Confirmation Families

March 15 -Praise Team

March 22 - All Committee Members (Christian Ed,
Local & Global, Worship & Music, Property) &
Sunday School Families

March 29 -High School Youth Families & Council



Thursday
Feb. 9th @ 9 am



MARCH 21ST – MARCH 25TH

Sign up now for your spot to get your picture taken for the New Church Photo Directory. You can sign up online or at church.

Tues. March 21st 1:00 - 7:50 pm

Wed. March 22nd 1:00 – 7:50 pm

Thurs. March 23rd 1:00 – 7:50 pm

Fri. March 24th 11:00 am – 5:50 pm

Sat. March 25th 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

4 Ways to Schedule Your Appointment

1. Our website: www.bethlehemlcportage.org
2. Call Church Office: 608-742-8502
3. Sign up table at church
4. Use QR Code Below



Allow for 1 hour for your appointment

Looking for volunteers to help with registration during photo sessions – sign up in narthex.



Lifeline Screening will once again be here on **February 23rd** to offer health screenings. Register here: <https://llsa.social/HSC> or by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441.

This Week:

Wednesday, February 8

Food Pantry Helpers

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

6:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Confirmation & High

School Youth Alive Event

Thursday, February 9

9 am Women's Group

Friday, February 10

10:30 am Tai Chi

Saturday, February 11

LEAD Conference

Sunday, February 12

9 am Worship

10:00 am Intergenerational Activity

Monday, February 13

10:30 am Tai Chi

1 pm Card Club

6 pm SREA Meeting

Tuesday, February 14

9 am Quilters

Wednesday, February 15

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship

6:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, February 16

6:30 pm Church Council



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**Need Worship Volunteers
for Ash Wednesday Service
(Feb. 22)**